

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NEA-11 ICA-11
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P 031754Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6377
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD, GENEVA ALSO FOR USDEL MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, AS, ETRD
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 2, 1978:
RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

REF: BRUSSELS 7512

1. THE MAY 2 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL HELD A BRIEF
DISCUSSION OF EC/AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS BUT TOOK NO
DECISIONS. THE MINISTERS ARE TO RETURN TO THE SUBJECT
AT THEIR JUNE 6 COUNCIL MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION AND PERMREP OFFICIALS,
COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP EXPRESSED TO THE
MINISTERS HIS VIEW THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST SEEK BETTER
RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND THAT, TO THIS END, IT SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO LOWER THE CURRENT EMOTIONAL TONE OF THE
DIALOGUE BY AVOIDING THE SAME "HARSH TERMS" EMPLOYED
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IN THE GOA'S OCTOBER 1977 MEMORANDUM. OUR SOURCES SAY
HAFERKAMP NOTED THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON
A SOLUTION IN THE GATT FRAMEWORK BUT THAT IT NEVERTHELESS
FACES SOME CONSTRAINTS IN WHAT IT CAN OFFER AUSTRALIA
WITHOUT TRANSGRESSING ITS COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
(CAP). HAFERKAMP CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR
THE COMMISSION TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THE

CURRENT ROUND OF VISITS TO EC MEMBER STATE CAPITALS BY AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIONS GARLAND, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BRUSSELS JUNE 8 FOR TALKS WITH THE COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, ALL MEMBER STATES ASSURED HAFERKAMP OF THEIR COOPERATION ON THIS POINT.

3. OUR SOURCES ALSO OFFERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC MEMBER STATE REACTIONS TO HAFERKAMP'S REMARKS:

(A) UNITED KINGDOM:

PERMREP MAITLAND INSISTED THAT THE RECENT DETERIORATION OF EC/AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS SERVES THE INTERESTS OF NEITHER PARTY AND JEOPARDIZES THE COMMON AIM OF SEEKING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE MTN. MAITLAND SAID THAT THE UK REGRETS THE TONE OF "CERTAIN STATEMENTS" BY MEMBERS OF THE GOA BUT ALSO REGRETS THE DELAY IN AN EC REPLY TO THE OCTOBER 1977 AUSTRALIAN MEMORANDUM. MAITLAND SAID THAT WHEN GARLAND VISITS LONDON THIS WEEK HE WILL BE URGED TO CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC ISSUES AND AVOID POLEMICS. BY THE SAME TOKEN, SAID MAITLAND, THE EC SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT IT IS READY TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS AS WELL. MAITLAND CITED, IN THIS REGARD, THE VIRTUAL STANDSTILL ON BEEF IN THE MTN.

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(B) FRANCE:

STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS STIRN INDICATED THAT THE GOF HAD ALREADY RECEIVED GARLAND IN PARIS AND THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN DEMANDS ON BEEF WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CAP.

(C) GERMANY: MINISTER OF STATE VON DOHNANYI EMPHASIZED THAT EC MEMBER STATES MAY HAVE TO MAKE "SOME SACRIFICES" IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA.

(D) ITALY:

DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SANZA CONFIRMED THE GOI'S INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS. RECALLING THAT GARLAND HAD RECENTLY VISITED ROME FOR DISCUSSIONS, SANZA SAID THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE EC TO EXPRESS GOOD WILL TOWARD AUSTRALIA BUT THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REDRESS THE STILL GREAT TRADE IMBALANCE.

(E) NETHERLANDS:

STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DER MEI SUGGESTED

THAT THE COMMUNITY MIGHT WISH TO INSTITUTIONALIZE REGULAR
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIANS AS A MEANS OF AVOIDING
THE SORT OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. HINTON

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